

Music VIEWS



Nat 'King' Cole
As W. C. Handy
In "St. Louis Blues"

april, 1958

COVER

The choice of Nat "King" Cole to play the role of W. C. Handy in the Paramount picture "St. Louis Blues" is indeed a happy one. Each of these gentlemen has made extremely significant contributions to American music: Handy as a great writer of great songs and Nat Cole as a great singer of great songs. Nat's performance leaves little to be desired both as an actor and singer. The picture has also given us a great album, on

Capitol, titled "Nat 'King' Cole Sings Songs from 'St. Louis Blues'." His delivery of such tunes as "Beale Street Blues," "Memphis Blues," "Yellow Dog Blues" and others, serves well as a constant reminder of the great talent of W. C. Handy coupled with the artistry of Nat "King" Cole. Nelson Riddle conducts for both the album and the picture. More on pages 4 and 5.



The ever-popular sound of the Andrews Sisters makes their newest disk, "One Mistake" and "Melancholy Moon," strong hit contenders.

Music Views

April, 1958 Vol. XVI, No. 4

VIC ROWLAND

Editor

MERRILYN HAMMOND Associate Editor

GORDON R. FRASER

Publisher

Published Monthly By

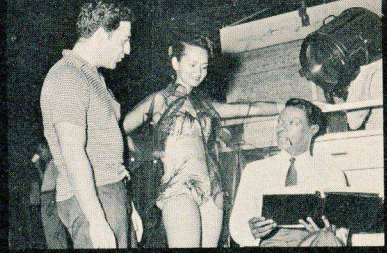
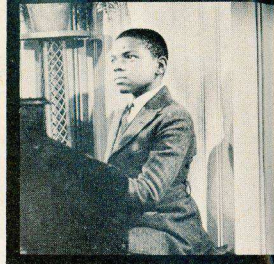
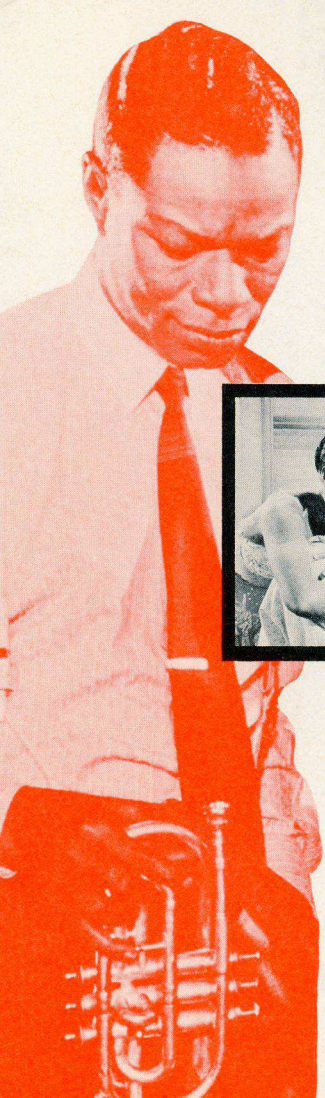
CAPITOL PUBLICATIONS, INC.

Hollywood & Vine, Hollywood 28, Calif.

Printed in U.S.A.



Young and talented Sue Raney makes album debut on Cap label with "When Your Lover Has Gone."

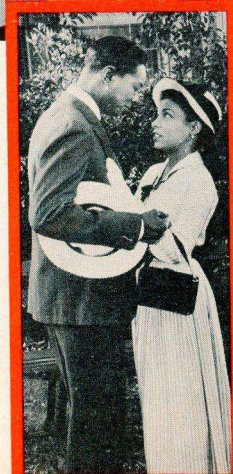


NAT 'KING' COLE "ST. LOUIS BLUES"



"ST LOUIS BLUES" is the life story of W C. Handy, often known as the "father of the blues." Produced by Paramount, the picture takes Handy from his early days in Memphis, through his early success as a composer, his lost and recovered sight and his later personal and professional triumphs. It is the story of his conflicting loves for jazz and his clergyman father; for his fiancée and for a Beale Street singer. It is the moving and dramatic story of a great man and his music.

Pictured on these pages in the FIRST ROW are: (1) Handy as a boy (William Preston), (2) Handy and nightclub singer Gogo Germaine (Nat "King" Cole and Eartha Kitt), (3) Allen Reisner, Director of "St. Louis Blues" with dancer Frieda Rentie and Nat. SECOND ROW: (1) Nat and Eartha Kitt, (2) Handy's Aunt Hagar (Pearl Bailey) with Nat, (3) Elizabeth, Handy's fiancée (Ruby Dee) (4) Blade, a Beale Street band-leader (Cab Calloway). BOTTOM RIGHT: Nat and Ruby Dee.



SPORTSMEN: ONE NOTE DID IT

The only singing group in history that was able to win fame and fortune by humming one note helped celebrate Jack Benny's 40th birthday on CBS Television's "Shower of Stars," recently.

They are the Sportsmen, a male quartet whose fame is real but whose fortune must be measured by the special financial scale used for assessing the success of all Benny employees.

The Sportsmen, members of the Benny Troupe since Jack's first radio show of the 1945 season, joined other regular and semi-regular members of the Benny entourage in celebrating the comedian's reluctant exit from his thirties.

The quartet's advent as recipients of Benny's largesse came when Don Wilson—then, as now, the announcer on the Jack Benny Program needed a quartet to help him do a commercial. He hired them for \$500, with many misgivings on Benny's part. Benny's misgivings gave way to helplessness when he discovered that the \$500 paid for the group for humming one lone note as punctuation for Wilson's delivery of the sponsor's message.

In subsequent programs Benny, who discovered that somehow his \$500 had established for him a

relationship with the quartet roughly the same as the relationship between a fly and a piece of flypaper, attempted to unload the singers, with no success. He tried to give them away, to sell them, and to lose them. But always they returned, with that haunting single hummed note, driving Benny to a degree of exasperation equalled only by his audiences' hilarity at the situation. Did Jack open a closet? There were the Sportsmen, with their ubiquitous "Hmmm." Did he open the garage door to get out the Maxwell? Again, "Hmmm." On the telephone, at the railroad station, or at Mary's house always "Hmmm."

Fortunately for Jack's sanity, he abandoned his efforts to unload the Sportsmen, and for the ensuing 12 years has allowed them to sing. It is not recorded whether or not they have ever been paid by Mr. Benny since that first \$500.

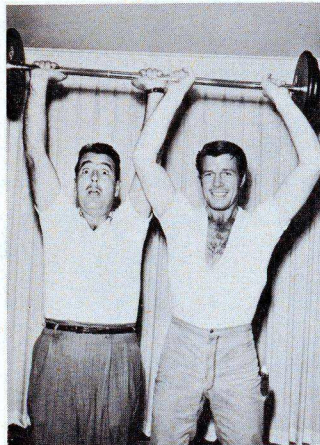
But according to Bill Days, senior member of the group, the degree of peonage in which Benny keeps them is of small import.

"That one note on the Benny show," he says, "was our big break. We had only been organized a couple or three years, and our only work had been as un-

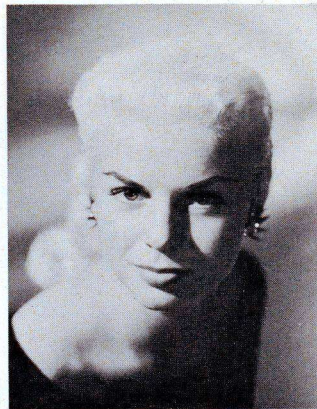
identified voices in radio commercials.

"After we'd been on the Benny show for a short time, we found we were famous and, what's more, in large demand. Since then we've done all kinds of shows, night club acts, recordings, and so on. We parlayed that 'Hmmm' into a very good career."

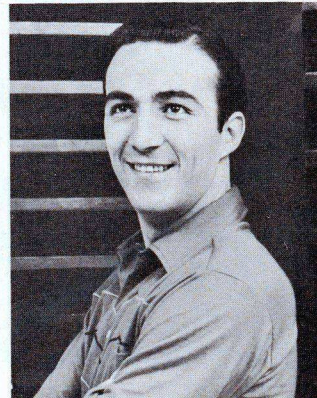
The group was recently signed by Tops Records to a disk pact. Singular feature of the signing is that Jack Benny has agreed to appear on the album cover but won't be heard inside.



Tennessee Ernie Ford and Robert Horton compare muscles on Ernie's "Ford Show" recently. "Bless Your Peapickin' Heart" is Ford's latest disclick under the Capitol banner.



Currently appearing with Stan Kenton on his Balboa bandstand and new TV show is singer Jan Tober.



Faron Young has another big one looming with "I Can't Dance" and "Rosalie (Is Gonna Get Married)."



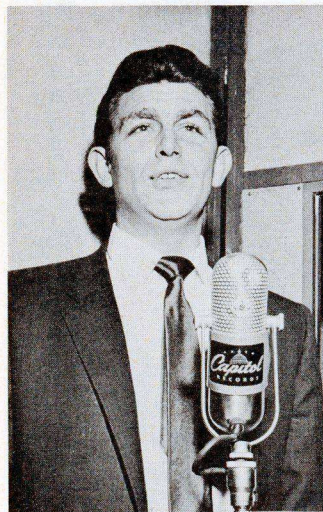
Two tunes from "The Music Man" are in Stan Freberg's newest single release, "Ya Got Trouble" and "Gary, Indiana." Both sides are done almost "straight" by usually irrepressible purveyor of satire.

RETRIBUTION

There are those who feel that the outbreaks of Asian Flu in this country are really some sort of poetic justice. They insist that it is merely a retaliatory measure for an epidemic which the U. S. has inflicted on its Oriental neighbors. The disease imported from the United States is called "rock 'n' roll."



Latest in the large collection of superb Jackie Gleason albums is a mood provoking package titled "The Torch With the Blue Flame."



Andy Griffith has another group of sidesplitting monologues, etc., collected in his newest Capitol package titled "Just For Laughs."

● HAMP WOWS EUROPE

Lionel Hampton, whose goodwill tour of Europe has been playing to SRO audiences, has also endeared himself to the citizens of Hamburg, Germany, by giving away two sets of drums. One set went to a refugee and the other was given to the Hamburg police band when it was learned that they always had to borrow drums when they went on parade.

The Berlin appearances were marked by the large number of East-Berliners in the audiences, in spite of the difficulty of crossing the line of demarcation and changing money to West marks.

ALL-AMERICA CHORUS TO TOUR EUROPE

The All-America Chorus will undertake another good-will concert tour of Europe next Summer. Leaving New York on July 2nd, the 100 voice chorus will appear in concert in nearly thirty major cities. Some of the highpoints of the tour will be appearances in Paris, London, Munich, Venice, Monte Carlo, Brussels, Milan, Heidelberg, Luxembourg, Innsbruck, and Geneva.

The group's appearances will be sponsored by various organizations abroad. These include U. S. Information Agencies, Armed Forces entertainment divisions, local governments, civic and cultural societies, and local music organizations. The chorus will appear on radio and television networks in all the countries visited.

The purpose of the chorus is to help build friendlier relations with the peoples of the countries visited on a person-to-person level; and to give talented singers the valuable experience and inspiration such a tour affords. Founded and conducted by Dr. James Allan Dash of Baltimore, The All-America Chorus last year included singers from 36 states and Alaska. It is hoped that the 1958 chorus will have every state in America and every territory represented.

Membership in the All-America

Chorus is open to all persons who have had successful choral experience. Singers are chosen solely on the basis of vocal talent, musical ability, and desirable character traits. Persons wishing to join the forthcoming tour may obtain information from the All-America Chorus office at 325 N. Charles Street, Baltimore 1, Maryland.



Plas Johnson's extraordinary sax appeal is again much in evidence on newest disk "Hoppin' Mad" and "Popcorn." Both are instrumentals.

SLOW UP

When the first recordings of Mercury's disk, "Rocket Ride," were made, the tempo was a wild one as recorded by a rock 'n' roller named Narvel Felts. By mistake, the record was played at 33 rpm's instead of 45 and Mercury execs liked the new tempo so well they made a new master which plays at 45 rpm but has the same sound as when originally played at 33 rpm. They claim that this way it has the same tempo as "The Stroll."

Could be that the rocket just slowed down to watch the scenery.



Franck Pourcel's French Strings do a fine job on his new Capitol release, "Armen's Theme" & "Kisses."



Dorothy Malone recently made her debut as a singer on "Bob Hope Show." Anyone else for golfing?

● U.S. & U.S.S.R. EXCH.

A recent agreement between the U. S. and Russia will permit the exchange of a number of important musical organizations and individuals. Making the trip behind the iron curtain will be the Philadelphia Orchestra, singers Leonard Warren, Blanche Thebom and Roberta Peters, and conductor Leopold Stokowski. In return the United States will view pianists Emil Gilels and V Ashkenazi, and violinists Leonid Kogan and I. Bezrodin. The State Folk Dance Ensemble of Russia and the Red Banner song and dance ensemble of the Soviet Army will also visit the United States.



"Ring Around the Moon" is title of new hit threat by Lonnie Sattin with equally strong ballad on the flipside, "My Heart's Your Home."



Kay Starr's recent stint on NBC-TV's "Club Oasis" featured humorist Andy Griffith as guest artist.

● SEEK FOREIGN TALENT

A search of 14 countries is being made to find young European jazz musicians for a 16-piece International Youth Band to perform at the Newport Jazz Festival in July. The talent search is being made under the auspices of George Wein of Storyville Records. Special compositions are being written for the group which will be flown to this country a week before the festival begins rehearsals.

Guitarist Bob Bain has an exciting instrumental on Capitol which looks like hitville, "Fender Bender."





"Gene Vincent Rocks and the Blue Caps Roll" is the completely descriptive title of the group's new swinging album on Capitol label.

'HOW TO' BOOK FOR TYRO MUSICALS

Lehman Engel, Broadway composer and conductor, has written a new book called "Planning and Producing the Musical Show," recently published by Crown Publishers, Inc. The book is a complete, practical guide for a community theatre group planning to put on a musical show.

In his book, Mr. Engel discusses such technical problems as selecting a suitable show, arranging for rights and royalties, choosing actors and organizing auditions and rehearsals. The author also discusses the formation and function of a production staff. The book lists fifty musical shows suitable for community production, giving the author and composer for each, the

number in the cast, the number of sets, the orchestral instruments required and the hit songs.

Born in Jackson, Mississippi and educated at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and the Cincinnati College of Music, Lehman Engel has had a varied career in the performing arts and has been affiliated with many distinguished theatrical and musical productions. This season he conducted the orchestra of "Lil Abner" and the more recent "Jamaica." He has also conducted for 17 other Broadway musical productions including "Fanny," "Wonderful Town," "The Consul," and "Call Me Mister."

ROUGH!

Newsman Walter Cronkite reports on his "Answer Please" show that rock 'n' roll has been banned by the Iranian Govt. on the grounds it is against the concepts of the Moslem religion. The decision also took into consideration the advice of Iranian doctors who claimed that young r. & r. dancers had injured their hips in "extreme gyrations."

So what happened to the whirling dervish?



Climbing on "The Music Man" band wagon, Jonah Jones has a tasty jazz version of "Seventy-Six Trombones" out as single recording.



The fingers of Joe "Fingers" Carr were never more dexterous than on new Cap deck titled "Dominique."



Recent stanza of NBC-TV's "Dinah Shore Chevy Show" had the Southern belle playing hostess to Ann Blythe, Marge & Gower Champion.

A GALAXY OF STARS

on



NAT "KING" COLE

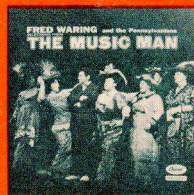


*Songs from the
motion picture
"St. Louis Blues" W993*

Nat sings hit songs from his great new film based on the life of W. C. Handy, the composer of "St. Louis Blues."

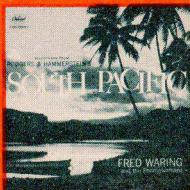
FRED WARING

and the Pennsylvanians in songs from 2 great Broadway shows!



THE MUSIC MAN T989
A sparkling choral and instrumental interpretation of Meredith Willson's hit show!

SOUTH PACIFIC T992
Wonderful selections from Rodgers and Hammerstein's smash musical.

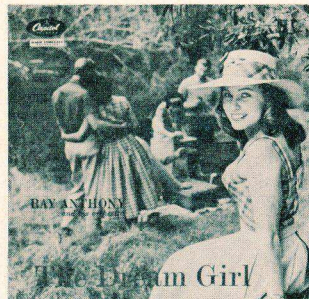
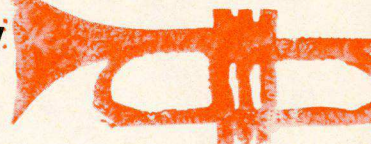


exclusive on



ARTIST OF THE MONTH

RAY ANTHONY



THE DREAM GIRL T969

Ray's lyric trumpet, backed by the famous Anthony big-band sound, in bewitching new arrangements of romantic dance music.

*the nation's favorite dance music,
for swingin' or dreamin'*

YOUNG IDEAS T866
DREAM DANCING T723
MOMENTS TOGETHER T917
DANCERS IN LOVE T786
YOUNG MAN WITH A HORN T373
RAY ANTHONY CONCERT T406
GOLDEN HORN T563

JAM SESSION AT THE TOWER T749
BIG BAND DIXIELAND T678
SWINGING ON CAMPUS T645
RAY ANTHONY STANDARDS T663
I REMEMBER GLENN MILLER T476
THE ANTHONY CHOIR T442

exclusive on





The book ends surrounding dancer Barbara Perry are Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra, both of whom have hits going on Capitol. Frank's is "Witchcraft" and Dean's is "Forgetting You." Rose between two what?



The Four Freshmen feature a great new sound on their newest Capitol release, "Whistle Me Some Blues" and "Nights Are Longer." Two great sides.

NO SALE

Comedian Danny Thomas recently auditioned for his own TV show and failed. During a rehearsal in which a group of teen-age dancers were working on a Charleston routine, the stage hands discovered Danny and his brother Ray, assistant director on the show, swinging away to an extremely fast version of the

Charleston played by a five-piece jazz band.

It developed that the two men, as boys, had "won every Charleston contest in our section of Ohio."

However, their efforts came to naught. Producer-director Sheldon Leonard went ahead and used the teen-age dancers in the show.

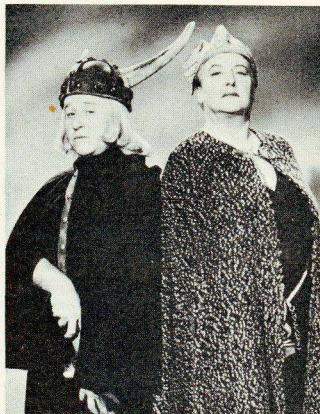
LOCKED OUT

The Crewcuts, a Canadian vocal group which has had several click records in the U. S., was recently denied readmittance to this country on the grounds that they are "immigrants not in possession of the required U. S. visas." They had been visiting their parents in Toronto when their re-entry was stopped at the Buffalo border.

The group's manager estimates that the possible three month wait for visas will cost the quartet nearly \$50,000 for appearances already booked.



Norrie Paramor again exposes his English talent to U. S. ears via his new 'Capitol' of the World album, "Norrie Paramor's Moods."



George "Wagner" Gobel recently played host to opera star Helen Traubel on NBC-TV's "The George Gobel Show." Results may force opera to go route of vaudeville.

● ELVIS' LAST STAND

Elvis Presley recently cut his last sides as a civilian (until after his draft term has expired) for RCA Victor. In the past three years the young rock 'n' roller has broken every modern sales record in the wax field. The exact total of his record sales is not known, but his slicing of "Don't Be Cruel" is said to have sold more than 5,000,000 copies worldwide with several others close behind.

Presley's contract was originally purchased by Victor from Sun Records for \$35,000.

The incomparable Nelson Riddle bats his way into another hit album with latest, "Sea of Dreams."





Ray Anthony also dips into the great "Music Man" score for his new single, "Till There Was You." Flip is a swinger, "The Big Record."

WHERE AM I?

All a songwriter needs to get a song in a motion picture is to have a demo handy and be absent-minded, according to tunesmith Pat Ballard. The vet songwriter was on his way to his office at 1650 Broadway when he accidentally got off at the wrong floor. He wandered into an office and, as a gag, whipped out a demo of his tune, "Somewhere There's Sunshine." The wrong office turned out to be the right office because a week later the tune was set for the upcoming Ferlin Husky picture, "The Boy From Tennessee." The tune has also been recorded for Capitol by Husky.

● SANDERS SIGNED

Proving that 'music hath charms to soothe the savage beast,' that traditional villain, actor George Sanders has been signed to a recording contract by ABC-Paramount.

● JUNE IN BRITAIN

Songstress June Christy will make her British personal appearance debut during April. She will make a couple of appearances in London before playing several Provincial dates. The Ted Heath orchestra will accompany.



Sammy Hagan and the Viscounts really capture the "hit sound" on their newest Capitol single, "Tail Light" and "Snuggle Bunny." Jack Marshall orchestra provides backing for the two swinging rock 'n' roll efforts.

WELK PLUGS HEART

Lawrence Welk has dedicated his latest Coral album, "With A Song in My Heart," to the 1958 Heart Fund Campaign and, through the nation's disk jockeys, is offering it as a personal gift to youngsters who have benefited from heart surgery since February 1, 1957.

Welk, who is donating his personal royalties from the album's sale to the American Heart Association, has included in the album many of the "Heart" songs fea-

tured in the television program which he dedicated to the Heart Fund Campaign last February.

A special coast-to-coast multiple network show was produced by and for America's disk jockeys to highlight the campaign for radio audiences on Valentine's Day. Starring were Frank Sinatra and Rosemary Clooney, selected as the King and Queen of Hearts for the 1958 Heart Fund Campaign in a nationwide poll of disk jockeys.



Les Brown's fine ork was never better than in his new Cap package, "Les Brown Concert Modern."



Singer-dancer-actor Joel Grey has strong hit threat in his latest for Capitol, "Be My Next" backed with a swinger, "Shoppin' Around."

● 'CAPT' SANS LANE

Columbia Records' "original cast" album of the Broadway musical "Oh Captain" will not boast the voice of the show's femme star, Abbe Lane. Miss Lane, under contract to RCA Victor, will record an album of songs from the show for that label. The Columbia package will have Eileen Rodgers singing Miss Lane's songs.



Formerly a native of New Orleans, drummer Earl Palmer makes his debut as an ork leader on Capitol with his Ten Piece Rockin' Band doing an exciting and swinging instrumental version of "Drum Village—I & II."



Back in this country after a world-wide tour, The Platters were welcomed by a possible new hit, "Helpless," backed up with "Indifferent."

● WAYNE UPTEMPOS

Singer Jerry Wayne, who had a hit record several seasons ago titled "You Can't Be True Dear," has re-recorded that same song, this time in a rock 'n' roll tempo. It is believed to be the first time a singer has attempted to revive a song he made famous by changing the tempo.

● GERMANS GET JAZZ

The Cologne High School of Music has become the first German music college to add jazz to its curriculum. The school, ranked with the best in the U. S., has added bandleader Kurt Edelhagen and other musicians from jazz and popular music circles to its teaching roster.



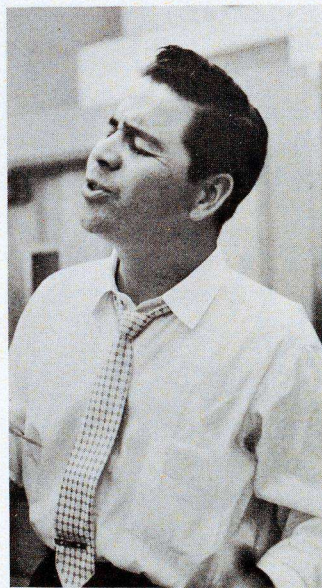
When this picture of Owen Reynolds appeared in Look Magazine, a chain reaction set in, eventually leading to Owen's appearance on Steve Allen's show. It also started him singing, he'll make record soon.

● FERRER TO WAX

Jose Ferrer, actor-director of stage and motion pictures, has been signed as a recording artist by MGM Records. It is planned that he will wax both as a singer and a reader. Ferrer made his record debut several years ago on the Columbia label by recording duets with his wife, Rosemary Clooney.

DRILL FOR HIT

If the newly formed Jan Records should run into troubled waters, they will have no problem spreading oil on them. The company with headquarters in Dallas, is a division of Fleegeer Drilling, Inc., an oil firm.



The idol of Latin America, Lucho Gatica, has a stateside hit with his beautiful renditions of "Mexicali Rose" and "Once In A Dream."



Jack Jones makes an exciting bid for hit honors with his newest on Cap, "A Very Precious Love" from W.B. pic, "Marjorie Morningstar."

YUP!

Disk jockeys better look to their laurels. They can be replaced by a chimpanzee. Ko-Ko-Mo, chimp performer on the Dave Garroway show, is being groomed for the job of platter spinner. The chimp now turns the crank of an old record player and tosses on the platters with the air of a seasoned jockey.

There are some cynics along tin pan alley and Vine Street who claim they knew it would happen sooner or later.



Verve recording artist Ella Fitzgerald was recent guest of Patti Page's CBS-TVer, "The Big Record."



The many sounds and moods of Les Baxter are presented in his exciting new album "Space Escapade."

● GUY NARAS PREXY

Guy Lombardo was recently elected to be the first president of the New York Chapter of the new National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. Also elected were Dave Kapp and John Stevenson, vice presidents; Ben Selvin, treasurer; and George Avakian, secretary.

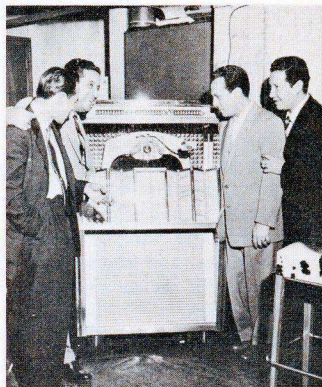
The California Chapter of the organization has been active since its formation last fall and is helmed by prexy Paul Weston. Chapters in Chicago and Nashville are planned for the future.



Newcomer Tabby West makes auspicious debut on Cap with swinger titled "If You Promise Not To Tell."



The Four Voices have a hit going on Columbia wax with their version of "Dancing With My Shadow."



The Trio Los Panchos and Tico Records executive examine juke box looking for their current release on that label titled "Serenade."

● GI's GET KENTON

Members of the Armed Forces are now seeing and hearing the "Stan Kenton Show" via the Armed Forces Radio-TV Network. Kenton's TV show originates from the Rendezvous Ballroom at Balboa Beach, California.

● LONGHAIR R & R

An album titled "The Rock 'n' Roll Rhapsody" has been recorded by the NBC "Symphony of the Air." The orchestra, formerly conducted by Arturo Toscanini, was under the baton of D'Artega, who composed the work.

ROYAL JAZZ

Princess Margaret Rose has been invited by Tops Records to narrate the British jazz segment of a projected jazz package featuring music of many countries. Should the Princess accept, it is proposed that the royalties would go to her favorite charity.



Stan Kenton again turns his attention south of the border for his exciting new versions of "Tequila" backed by "Cuban Mumble."



Ed Townsend brings exciting new vocal sound with his initial Capitol release, "For Your Love" and "Over and Over Again." Hitbound.

Bulk Rate

- ★ Dealers with local Bulk Rate permit may use 1½c pre-cancelled stamp (or meter) on mailings of 200 or more; otherwise use 2c uncanceled stamp (or meter). No envelope or sealing required. Mail at Post Office. When 2c stamp is used, place stamp so it covers up the words "Bulk Rate."



The Four Dolls (a very descriptive name for these youthful and talented youngsters) have a bright new disk showing well titled "Whoop-a-lala."